

PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION ON CRIME AND DELINQUENCY

Constables' Education and Training Board

Sandra A. Miller
Board Chair

Charles G. Benhayon
Board Vice-Chair

Rodney A. Manning
William E. Keyser
Julie G. Sokoloff



Walter M. Phillips, Jr., Esq.
Chairman, PCCD

Michael J. Kane, Esq.
Executive Director, PCCD

Stephen Spangenberg
Director
Bureau of Training Services

CONSTABLES' TRAINING BULLETIN

NUMBER 56

OCTOBER 2006

NEW TRAINING PROVIDER FOR NW & SW REGIONS

Act 1994-44 training provided to constables across the state is done under state contract. The current training contracts with the six training providers will expire in December 2006. Due to the approaching expiration date of the contracts, PCCD was required to advertise the contracts and put the contracts out for bid under PA Department of General Services (DGS) regulations. Any interested vendor with related law enforcement training experience can bid on the contracts. An interested vendor had to bid on each specific region for which they wished to provide training.

PCCD advertised the Request-For-Proposals (RFP) in April 2006. Interested bidders had to submit proposals to PCCD by June 9, 2006. In accordance with DGS regulations, the proposals were then reviewed and scored based on their technical proposals such as similar training experience, staff to be involved, and available facilities, as well as their fiscal proposals.

The current training providers had to submit proposals, as well as other interested vendors. Once the proposals were scored, the winning vendors were notified and PCCD contracted with those vendors. As a result of this process, beginning in January 2007, the training providers will be:

Region

Southeast Region
South Central Region
Southwest Region
Northeast Region
North Central Region
Northwest Region

Training Provider

Temple University
Harrisburg Area Community College
Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Lackawanna College
Mansfield University
Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP) will provide training to both the Northwest and Southwest Regions. IUP will utilize the same standardized curriculum that will be used by all training providers across the state. IUP will attempt to provide training in the same geographic areas that Penn State Fayette (Southwest Region) and Mercyhurst (Northwest Region) provided.

The actual training facilities will be different in some areas, but the same geographic regions will be serviced. The selection of IUP as training provider is in no way a reflection of PCCD's opinion of the training services provided by Mercyhurst and Penn State Fayette.

Mercyhurst and Penn State Fayette are both original training providers and have provided excellent training since the training program began in 1996. Both schools have a history of providing a high quality of training and excellent service to meet the training needs of constables in the Southwest and Northwest Regions. There are many rumors regarding the change, so if you have questions, contact PCCD at the phone number found in this bulletin.

Registration and Board regulations (Title 37) remain the same

The process to register for training in the Southwest and Northwest Regions will remain the same. Constables will still be able to register for training on line via the PCCD website (www.pccd.state.pa.us), by fax or by mail. The contact information for IUP will be in the printed training schedule that will be mailed out in November 2006. It will also be available on the PCCD website. The current Board regulations (Title 37 §431) will still apply to all training providers.

Change of Address / Insurance Renewals

In December of 2006, the 2007 certification cards will be mailed. You have 15 days to change your personal information to stay in compliance with Pennsylvania Code Title 37 §431.11. Constables also must maintain current professional liability insurance. Act 44 states that any constable or deputy constable who fails, neglects or refuses to maintain a current insurance policy as required, or to file proof thereof with the clerk of courts, shall cease automatically to be certified to perform judicial duties upon the expiration of the policy. In order to ensure uninterrupted constable certification, it is essential that every constable file his or her liability insurance with the county clerk of courts. The county clerks of courts are the legal repositories for insurance information and the county clerk of courts will forward the insurance to the PCCD. Do not mail or fax it the PCCD.

Registration Reminder Regarding 2007 Training

This is a reminder about scheduling yourself for the upcoming year. As usual, all classes will be filled "first come, first served." In order to fulfill your training obligations, the sooner you get your paperwork in, the easier it will be for you to adjust your schedule. Waiting until the last minute will only inconvenience you. In 2007, class size limits will be strictly enforced.

Also, PCCD is working towards sending constables an email confirmation once they register for class, either on-line or even if they mail or fax in a registration. You can submit or change an email address through the Constable Personal Information Viewer section on the PCCD website (www.pccd.state.pa.us). Currently only 167 certified constables have email addresses in the Constable Information System. More will be published concerning implementation of this feature during 2007.

2007 Curriculum

Firearms:

In 2007 there will be three types of firearms training offered. As in the past, all firearms classes are optional.

Basic Force Options

The basic firearms class, intended for new constables and the basis for initial firearms certification, class has been increased from 40 hours to 48 hours. Eight hours have been added to the existing basic firearms course in order to incorporate Basic Chemical Aerosol and Expandable Baton. The new class is entitled Basic Force Options.

Annual Firearms

As in past years, there will be a 20-hour Annual Firearms certification course offered. The firearms standards have not changed. The Annual Firearms course for 2007 consists of 20 hours of instruction focused on the improvement of basic marksmanship skills. Along with a qualification course, it will include reduced-light and judgmental training, as well as modules designed to improve marksmanship and weapons handling skills. Assessments will evaluate each student's skills and will provide information to enhance future firearms training programs for constables.

Advanced Firearms

In 2007, there will also be a 20-hour Advanced Firearms course, as outlined in Bulletin 55. The advanced firearm training is designed for the more advanced shooter. There are prerequisite requirements, which must be met in order to attend. A constable must achieve a qualifying score of 88% on the range the previous year and must also score a 75% in all other areas such as weapon manipulation skills, judgmental shooting, and written test from the previous year. The qualifying course of fire is the same as all other firearms classes. Shooters will fire for qualification at the beginning of the course. If a constable fails to qualify in the Advanced Firearms course, he or she will be allowed to attend the standard Annual Firearm class that year, at no cost or penalty to the constable.

Continuing Education:

Defensive Tactics/ Force Transition

This is an eight-hour lesson in the practical application of the use of force. The emphasis in this module is transitioning within the force continuum. While performing a threat assessment, a constable must have the ability to transition and adapt to each threat. As a threat increases or decreases, it is imperative the constable's use of force adapt to the threat. The Defensive Tactics / Force Transition module will assist the constable in the fluid transition among all the force options available.

Legal Updates

This four-hour block is designed to update constables regarding recent changes in Pennsylvania civil procedures, to review significant changes in Pennsylvania's rules of criminal procedure, and to discuss significant case law with regard to constable duties and responsibilities. This module will also review the changes Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC) has recently made to warrants.

Survival Mindset

This is a four-hour module that is designed to address the mindset and mental preparedness of constables, so they can perform their duties safely. The information in this module has been compiled from actual situations constables in Pennsylvania have faced and incorporates the practical application of many of the training components from other subjects.

Use of Force

This is a four-hour block of instruction intended to be a review of the legal issues associated with the use of force by a constable. This modular will deal with two major issues. The first is when the use of force should be utilized. The second is when is the use of force justified under the provisions of the Crimes Code.

Optional Training:

O/C Spray Use of Force Under Stress

These modules are two four-hour optional modules that incorporate Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) spray in the use of force and defensive tactics while under stress. Because of the incorporation of OC and baton in the Basic Force Options course offered this year, this will be an update class, not a basic class. If a constable needs to take the basic course, he or she must enroll in a Basic Force Options class. The practical exercises will review proper carrying and drawing techniques, body positioning, proxemics, patterns of movement, and spraying. The scenarios cover spraying a combative subject in a variety of settings, including single-constable, contact/cover, and constable-down situations.

Street Smarts for Constables

This is an eight-hour optional module to help constables deal with diversity in our culture and the intensity levels of different situations. Like many vocations that interact with the community and individuals in a variety of situations, constables often work with individuals when they are at their worst. They may deal with criminals, victims, and those having domestic, mental or emotional problems. When the constable arrives, the intensity level usually rises. Experience is an excellent teacher, but street smarts must be taught, then cultivated and practiced, so constables don't have to learn through their mistakes during a crisis.

Act 233

The last issue of the Constables' Training Bulletin contained information on submission of IRS form W-9 in order to allow for payments under the provisions of Title 42 § 2492(f), which permits the PCCD to provide assistance to constables for the costs related to attending continuing education training, when there is sufficient surplus in the training account to provide such assistance.

Since passage of Act 2005-233 which amended Title 42 § 2492(f), the PCCD has been working with other state agencies that are necessary to and will be involved in the review and processing of payments under the Act. Currently, the PCCD anticipates finalizing the details of the system by the end of 2006 and processing these payments sometime during the first quarter of 2007.

Payments under Title 42 § 2492(f) will be dependent upon a constable's successful completion of continuing education training and submission of a W-9 form. As of October 1, 2006, 97 or 8 % of the 1,191 constables who have attended continuing education training in 2006 have submitted a W-9 form. Additional information will be provided in future issues of the Constables' Training Bulletin as implementation proceeds.

The final date the W-9 forms will be accepted is December 1, 2006. Mail your W-9 forms to:

**Bureau of Training Services
ATTN: Constables' Training
P.O. Box 1167
Harrisburg, PA. 17108-1167**

P.O. Box 1167, Harrisburg, PA 17108-1167
Telephone: (717) 705-3693 – Toll Free (800) 692-7292
FAX: (717) 783-7140
www.pccd.state.pa.us